

See
622
C153

\$1.15

California

(ISSN 0008-1299)

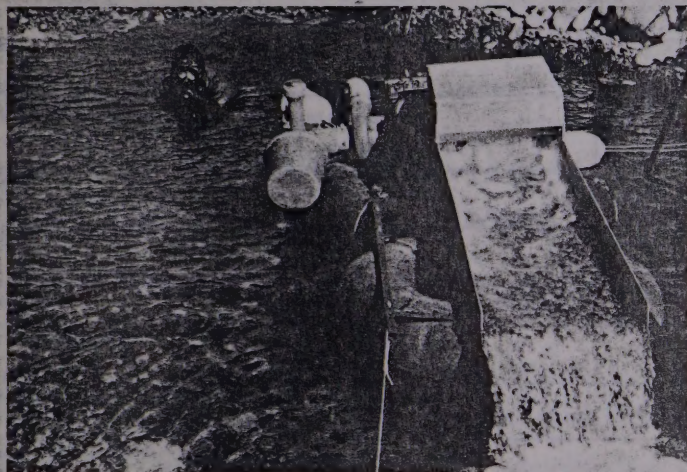
MINING JOURNAL

The West's Leading Domestic Mining Publication

Volume 51, Number 9

MAY 1982

Published Monthly



IDAHO Prospecting Vacation

"... You never know
when you might be
the next one to find
that nice big pocket
of gold ..."
(page 6)



POLARPAM

Acc'd: May 2/82
Order No.: 111-2100 (160504)
Price: \$2.20
Acc. No.: CANMET

POLAR
PAM
4308

Right Spots In Yukon Placer Mining Forecasts For 1982

By Mike Laforet
Black Mike's Gold Mines Ltd.
Whitehorse, Yukon

While placer miners around the world are crying the blues over the current low price of gold, they are eternal optimists, and they continue to look for the silver lining, and the gold-bearing paystreak. To continue this vein of optimism, we have selected certain bright spots that relate to the Yukon placer miner. While the price of goods and

services are going up, the royalty that must be paid on each ounce of gold produced in the Yukon has also gone up. On April 1, 1981, the royalty increased by nearly 100%, from 1½% to 2½%. There was little, if any, complaining from the Yukon placer miner, as the reference price for an ounce of gold is fixed by an Order-In-Council, dating from the early days of the Klondike Gold Rush, at fifteen dollars an ounce. In order to ship placer gold from the Yukon to a refiner or smelter, the miner must

have the shipment weighed and sealed at the local Mining Recorder's office, and he must pay a royalty of thirty-seven and one-half cents on each ounce of gold that he ships. If the shipment is made without the royalty being paid, it is theoretically possible for the R.C.M.P. to confiscate the shipment, and the gold is forfeited to the Crown. We still don't know how they make change for the half-cent, if a Miner ships only one ounce, but they have their ways, these bureaucrats. Changes may be made next year, 1983, to the Yukon Placer Mining Act, but we have the word of the bureaucrats that no changes will be made during the 1982 placer mining season.

Again on the bright side, gold production from placer sources was up a whopping 40% in 1981, over one hundred and ten thousand troy ounces, (3,421,330 grams). This production, due largely to the high price of gold early in the 1981 season, is greater than any production year since the First World War, but we still have a long way to go to match production for 1900, the best year of the Klondike Gold Rush, when production reached 1,350,057 troy ounces, or over 41 million grams. In 1980, royalty was paid on 71,113 troy ounces, or 2,211,827 grams. The best government guesses are that 75% of the gold recovered is recorded by the government through the royalty charges, but experienced placer miners suggest that 50% is closer to the truth.

David Waugh, manager of the Yukon Chamber of Mines, estimates that the total Yukon placer production was approximately \$60 million, and that 1982 will see production of close to \$65 million, dependent on the gold price, and other factors.

It is also estimated that placer miners spent some \$90 million to produce \$60 million in gold in 1981, due largely to an influx of inexperienced people hoping to capitalize on gold at \$700 an ounce.


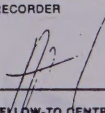
1982 will see almost as many

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

YUKON PLACER MINING ACT

ROYALTY CERTIFICATE

Nº P 2360

DISTRICT Whitehorse			
ROYALTY ON GOLD IS PAID AT THE RATE OF 1½% ON A VALUE OF \$15.00 PER OUNCE			
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT			
OF SHIPPER Black Mike's Gold Mines Ltd. (Mike Laforet)			
ADDRESS Mike 896.5 Alaska Hwy (Box 440)			
HAS PAID THE SUM OF 23¢	BEING ROYALTY ON GOLD		NO. OF OUNCES 102
DERIVED FROM (WATERSHED) Acier CK #4			
DERIVED BY (NAME OF PLACER OPERATOR) Black Mike's Gold Mines Ltd.			
SHIPPED TO (NAME AND DESTINATION) Johnson Matthey - Smelter Industrial Rd. Campton, Ontario			
OF PARCELS 1	SHIPPING DATE 26 Feb. 1981	SIGNATURE OF MINING RECORDER 	

U.S.A. Air Carried on Person

PINK-TO MINING RECORDER

YELLOW-TO CENTRAL MINING RECORDS

order to send a small quantity of concentrate out for analysis, Mike Laforet paid the princely sum of 23¢ royalty on an ounce of gold that was worth over \$100 at the time. The royalty was actually only 22½¢ per ounce, but we graciously allowed the government to round off the sum in their favor.

MINING CLAIM SERVICES ROLAND P. CASEY & ASSOCIATES

P.O. Box 691, San Andreas, CA 95249
568 Angels Rd. - Tel: (209) 754-3491

Licensed Land Surveying and Posting
Record Search and Validation
County and B.L.M. Filing and Recording
Environmental Studies
Preparation of Use Permit Applications

CERTIFIED ANALYSIS

Rocks—Ores—Concentrates
48 hour turnaround

Now Quantitative Analysis of
Gold & Silver, and
all Platinum Group Metals!

Call AST LAB INC.

Atomic Spectroscopy & Testing
7730 East Redfields Rd., Ste. 4
Scottsdale, Arizona 85260
(602) 948-6907

ties being worked as last year, with more experienced operators, from a host of well-financed, hardrock mining firms that are going into the placer area.

On the bright side, patrons of the hotel bar in Atlin, B.C. just below the Yukon border, were treated to a party on the house last July 20, as placer miners John Harvey and Gary Evendon shared their good time with their friends. Earlier that night in the second-last riffle, John had noticed a shining object, shut down the water supply to the riffle. Had he been a few minutes later, their nugget would have washed back into the tailings. After years of work on the claim, Harvey revelled in the moment, and would proudly pull from his pocket a nugget the size of a cigarette. It weighed 1,180 grams, three troy pounds, and was the largest nugget recovered in the Atlin area in recent memory. John has invested over \$100,000 US for the claim, and will be back working his claim again this year. "If there was a nugget here must be more," says John, "this time he'll pay closer attention to his riffles."

Yukon Claims Increase
The recently released YUKON MINING INDUSTRY REPORT for 1981 by Ruth Debicki, Placer Geolo-

gist for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs: "Yukon's placer gold mining industry will continue to develop and prosper." Many leases were converted to claims in 1981,

making a total of 6,210 kilometers of valid claims. This compares to 5,830 km. in 1980, 3,500 km in 1979, and only 2,000 km. in 1978. Claims have

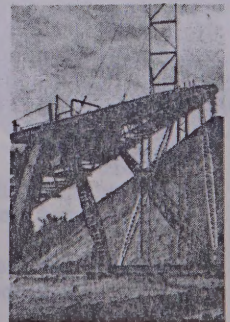
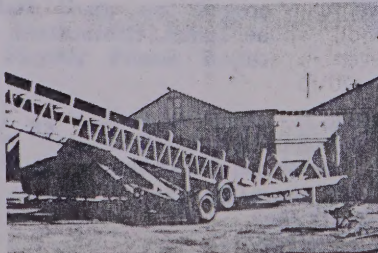
Continued on next page



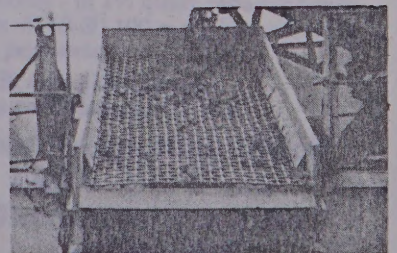
One of the hundreds of placer operations scattered throughout the Yukon shows a representative classifying system. A D-8 Cat, out of the picture, strips and piles the ground. The Loader delivers the gravel to the screening plant, and a conveyor system delivers the undersize to the trommel and jig recovery system. With 22 hours of daylight in the Yukon summer, two shifts can be used to work around the clock before winter sets in again, in late September.

Why invent the wheel again?

You can go directly to the company that invents, designs, and engineers plant systems to fit your needs. Mirrif . . . the only conveyor manufacturer in the west that manufactures their own components for conveyor systems . . . quality, high production products . . . fast and consistent delivery.



We are so sure that our equipment is the best, we are offering a guarantee insurance policy . . . ask about how we can benefit your plant operations.



13584 Central Rd. • Apple Valley, CA 92307 (714)247-6436

BRIGHT SPOTS

Continued from page 39

been staked and worked outside the traditional mining areas, extending to areas with no previous history of mining, or even reports of placer gold concentrations.

The trend from small, private operations to large, corporate operations continued, as last year saw more than 20 operations that employed twenty persons or more. While underground placer mining operations are rare in the north, two were begun last year, one on Hunker Creek, and the other on Miller Creek.

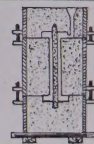
Still on the bright side, most of the heavy-equipment operators who worked on placer claims last year expect to go to work this year, but employment opportunities are bleak for newcomers. While there is a glut of Cat and loader operators on the market in Canada, the experienced placer operator still can find work. In some areas, he can make \$15 an hour, working a 10-hour to 12-hour shift, as many as seven days a week. Many experienced operators work hard all summer, and follow the sun all winter, but it's still possible to get stung.

A number of heavy equipment operators are still chasing fly-by-night American firms that employed them, and then went south without paying the help. One foreman, Jim Cameron of Whitehorse, is chasing a San Diego firm that owes him \$21,000 in back wages, and many operators have filed claims against the firm.

Thousands of young people come to the Yukon each season, looking for jobs in the gold camps, and perhaps a dozen might find work. The rest mill around all summer and eventually go home, or back to school. Those looking for work here, even experienced tradesmen, are advised to find a job by mail first, as there are more experienced placer people here than there are jobs.

Yukon placer miners are looking to a successful year in 1982, as many have their ground stripped, ready for production, and they're basing their estimates on \$300 gold. If the price rises, that's a direct bonus to the men who have hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in their properties. The last worry on the minds of these pros is having to pay 37½¢ on each ounce of gold they produce.

Slope wash — Soil and rock material that is being or has been moved down a slope predominantly by the action of gravity assisted by running water that is not concentrated into channels.

**FIND
IT****REFINE
IT****CAST
IT**

NEW: BLACK SAND: Well Illustrated, Proven Methods to extract Gold, Silver & Platinum from black sands. Includes plans for extracting table, chemical apparatus, etc. \$12.95 PP.

SIMPLIFIED METHODS of Refining Gold & Silver for the non-chemist. Illustrated How to book. \$7.95 PP.

PRECIOUS METAL Refining Ques. & Ans. book. Illustrated, for Prospector, non-chemist etc. This, with Simplified Methods of refining Gold & Silver will put you in business. \$9.95 PP.

DESIGNING & OPERATING the Small Cupola: Reduce those oxides to metal. Use as mini blast furnace for Metal Recovery. Melt iron, brass etc. Complete design details. \$7.95 PP.

AMERICAN PRACTICAL Electroplater. Covers gold, silver, copper, chrome etc. Complete simplified How to Plate book. \$9.95 PP.

METAL CASTERS BIBLE: 434 pages 450 illustrations. Dynamite how to book. Encyclopedia of foundry processes, equipment & materials. Practical guide for home shop metal caster. \$11.95 plus \$1.00 postage.

COMPLETE HANDBOOK of Sand Casting. 258 pages 285 illustrations. Start your own sand foundry. Easy to follow instructions, based on the Author's many years of foundry experience. \$7.95 plus \$1.00 postage.

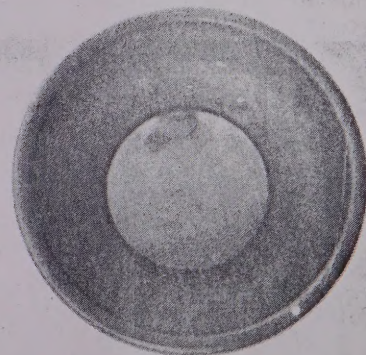
(If ordering both casting books, postage \$1.50)

Send to C. W. AMMEN Box 288C, Manitou Springs, Colo. 80829

NEW SUPER SIEVES FOR FINE MATERIALS

**RUGGED — RUST PROOF
LONG LASTING
EASILY CLEANED
LIGHTWEIGHT
PRACTICAL**

**Fine Mesh Brass and Bronze
Screens Permanently Joined to
Tough Flexible Plastic Bowls.**



6 1/2"

diameter screens - in one gallon capacity bowls.
Available in 40-60-80-100 mesh brass screens.
Only \$13.95 per sieves.

150-200 mesh phosphor bronze screens
Only \$16.95 per sieves

— OR —

4"

diameter screens - in 1 1/2 quart capacity bowls.
Available in 40-60-80-100 mesh brass screens.
Only \$9.95 per sieves.

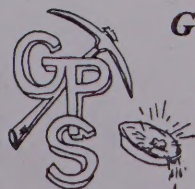
F.O.B. Glendale, Arizona
Arizona residents add 5% tax.

Gold Prospecting Shack

6244 N. 43rd Avenue
Glendale, Arizona 85301

(602) 934-0059

**Specializing in
Assay Equipment and Sales**



Date Due

53719 Pam:622.271: (*430)
LAF

LAFORET, Mike
Bright spots in Yukon placer
mining

DATE LOANED	BORROWER'S NAME	DATE DUE

53719 Pam:622.271: (*430)
LAF

LAFORET, Mike
Bright spots in Yukon placer
mining

BOREAL INSTITUTE FOR NORTHERN STUDIES, LIBRARY
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
EDMONTON, ALBERTA T6G 2E9
CANADA

University of Alberta Library



0 1620 0335 7512